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"Brooklyn Bridge," 1909, Edward Livingston MacRae

National Trust for Historic Preservation

"Old House at Cos Cob" [Bush-Holley House], etching by Childe Hassam

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"Feeding the Ducks," Edward Livingston MacRae. Displayed in the Armory Show of 1913.

How To Do It

If your historical society is inactive and has lost its importance to the community, what do you do?

Three years ago the Historical Society of the Town of Greenwich, Conn., under the aegis of its new president, Anson C. Lowitz, decided that it must attempt to rebuild the Society into something worthwhile. The Society could survive only if a favorable public attitude could be developed and its objectives exposed to the people—via publicity. After three years of hard work, and much publicity, the Society has 603 members and 1,699 donors; it has saved and restored a historic house and has made significant contributions to the history of art through a rediscovered Cos Cob painter and the lost 1913 Armory Show records.

The Board developed a program, having wide public appeal, and launched a publicity campaign, releasing one news story after another about the Society and its activities. Suggesting that the program should be worth the price of a movie, the membership was raised from $1.00 to $2.00. The Society regained old members and went out to get new ones. They turned their attention to young people—to school children, to teachers, and to members of the Junior League. The Board was increased to provide spaces for young doers—believing that every member of the Board should be able to contribute something besides money to the cause.

Meanwhile a committee of three was canvassing the town in search of an old house, appropriate for Society headquarters. Finally on April 11, 1957, after days and nights of negotiation, two Society members made a down payment on the Bush-Holley House and a contract was signed—with appropriate publicity. Then came an organized drive for funds, with personal letters, telephone calls, and house-to-house appeals, each publicized widely.

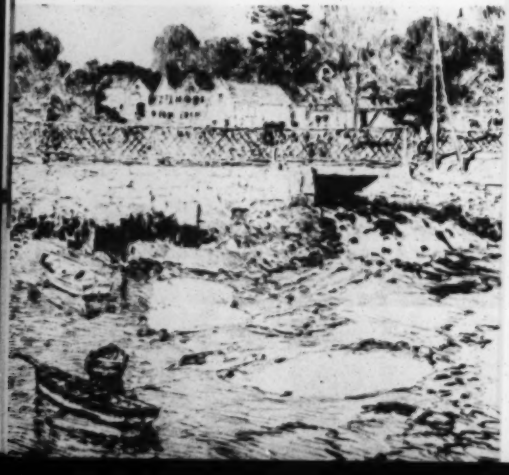
By July 1, 1957, the Society had raised enough money to take possession of the 250-year-old house, which had been deemed significant enough architecturally and historically by the state of Connecticut to alter the path of the Thruway. Although research has failed to reveal the name of the builder of the original old "salt box," or the exact date of its construction, existing records indicate that it may have been built before 1685 by a Dutch fur trader or, more likely, by Eliphalet Jones, the town's first parson. These opinions find partial confirmation in the nine-foot central chimney, with its topping of yellow brick, made in Holland; and in the two Jacobean fireplaces with rounded corners and firebacks of brick set in herringbone patterns. The paneling, remaining in three of the principal rooms, and carved pulpit stair are excellent examples of early eighteenth-century craftsmanship.

Justus Bush, Jr., of Horseneck (Greenwich), whose great grandfather, Heinrich Bosch, had come to New York from Leyden, in 1660-61, acquired this and other property in Cos Cob, on April 15, 1738. Upon Justus' death in 1760 the house was left to his son, David Bush, who petitioned in 1763 for the right to construct a tide grist mill "on the landing opposite or nearly opposite my dwelling house on Strickland Brook." This mill was in operation for 136 years—until destroyed by fire in 1899. Descendants of the Bush family lived in the house until 1835. In 1882, Edward P. Holley, with a Greenwich background as early as the Bushes, purchased the property from a bank and brought to the house his wife and their three children. At that time Emma Constant MacRae, from whom the Society purchased the house, was a little girl, but she still recalls the days when oxcarts plodded down the back country to the Lower Landing on Strickland Road where sloops were loaded with farmers' produce for the New York market. In time the old house became known as "The

Holley Inn"—a favorite pension of budding artists of the Cos Cob school, writers, publishers, and others from the world of arts and letters. Among these young artists was Elmer Livingston MacRae to whom Emma Constant Holley was married in 1900.

Additions were made to the house through the years. A small shop building south of the main house was eventually joined to the main house by means of a great central hall. Later additions doubled the size of the house, and the roof was raised to provide additional rooms, including slave quarters which are still visible. In the mid-eighteenth century, a kitchen wing was erected at the rear of the main house. There are indications that it may have been an existing building which was moved into position from some other location. The famous two-story porches, long symbol of the house and favorite subjects of artists, were constructed around 1850. In 1900, two dormers were installed in the roof of the house and, a year later, a bay was constructed at the rear of the long room where only recently the Society uncovered the original kitchen fireplace with its early beehive oven—and a secret staircase. The restoration decided upon by the Society, under the direction of two architectural historians, was actually a "reconciliation," since these later features of the house were retained, emphasizing its long and continuous history.

"Old Lace," Childe Hassam. Mill dam with bridge in front of the Bush-Holley House.



Now the Society, with a house to restore, had to increase its efforts to get new members and its campaigns for funds and publicity. At the end of its first year, it had a total of 300 members and had raised more than $20,000 from individual donations, a Founders' Day Ball, a percentage of sales from a well-publicized outdoor art show, and admissions to the house. An auction had been held at the house of unwanted items belonging to Mrs. MacRae who received the proceeds. Three hundred persons, however, paid $1.00 to visit the house at the time of the auction. Before beginning the restoration, Mrs. MacRae's furnishings and other objects, which she wished to keep for an apartment (which the Society had agreed to build in the house for her exclusive use as long as she might wish it), had to be stored. These were moved by a local company without cost to the Society, and with publicity.

Community interest was aroused. The Junior League proposed that its members serve as guides and staff the house and that it be made the League's local headquarters. An agreement with the League resulted in an initial gift of $2,000 toward the restoration fund, plus a monthly contribution for the use of one room as League headquarters. Since then, the Greenwich Junior League has contributed a set of china, a guest register, and $2,500 for the furnishings of one of the rooms—plus its monthly contribution for the use of the room. All League activities are well publicized.

Because Mrs. MacRae has long been one of the best-known ladies in the garden clubs—nationally and locally—the Society set out to interest the garden clubs in restoring the gardens and grounds—financially and physically. This work is now under way, at no expense to the Society.

A committee was organized to contact all business firms in Greenwich to urge

each to give one dollar for every year in business—all donors to be listed on a plaque with date of the firm's organization. Forty firms responded with donations totaling nearly a thousand dollars. The Society prepared a new campaign book, *The House That Never Stopped Living*, and organized a house-to-house fund-raising campaign in Riverside and Old Greenwich. The folder was mailed also to 2,500 prospects in other areas of Greenwich. The house-to-house campaign gained more than $4,000 in gifts ranging from 25¢ to hundreds of dollars, and the mailing brought in several thousands more—all of this publicized. All gifts are recorded in a Donors' Book.

During the restoration process workmen discovered ancient wallpaper beneath the lath and plaster while cutting through a door. Later one of the original wallpapers from the Wayside Inn, South Sudbury, Mass., was discovered in the files of the Historical Society. More publicity resulted when the designs were submitted to the National Trust, bringing about an agreement with Katzenbach and Warren, royalties on sales coming to the Society and the National Trust.

Throughout the year, the Society presented prominent speakers on subjects of interest to the membership—all well publicized. Also, the Society ran training courses for two groups of guides: the Junior League and the local Cos Cob ladies' group. These courses covered the history of the town of Greenwich, the history of the district of Cos Cob, the history of the Bush-Holley House, the people who once lived in it, plus instruction, on a room-by-room basis, with all exhibits and features fully described. These courses were publicized and well attended.

Again dues were raised, this time to $5.00 for an individual and $7.50 for husband and wife. A new bill form was developed, designed to allow each member to elect his or her own class. Many signed up voluntarily as contributing, sustaining, life, or perpetual members. All donors are granted a courtesy membership for one year in appreciation of their gifts. At the end of the year a special letter is sent to them, with a bill enclosed; this produces a large percentage of returns.

An article in the Magazine ANTIQUES and two feature articles in the New York *Herald-Tribune* brought in more contributions and members, plus hundreds of visitors. Indirectly, one of the *Tribune* articles resulted in a gift from a neighborhood association of $1,000 in memory of the founders of the association, the oldest organized charity in Greenwich.

During the Christmas season, the Society sold holly bushes as gifts and Christmas cards, featuring etchings of the house by Childe Hassam, as well as informal note paper.

The Bush-Holley House was featured in the 1958 Greenwich Telephone Directory in its "Where to Go" section, complete with illustration. A drawing of the house is featured on the cover of the 1959 Greenwich Telephone Directory, with a story about the house on the inside front cover.

Since Mrs. MacRae eventually decided not to return to live in the house, a group of members joined together to buy her furniture, much of which is excellent and belonged in the house. The balance, plus surplus, duplicates of the Historical Society, and antiques donated by friends and members of the Society, were sold in June at an auction on the grounds of the Bush-Holly House. As usual, the auction was widely publicized.

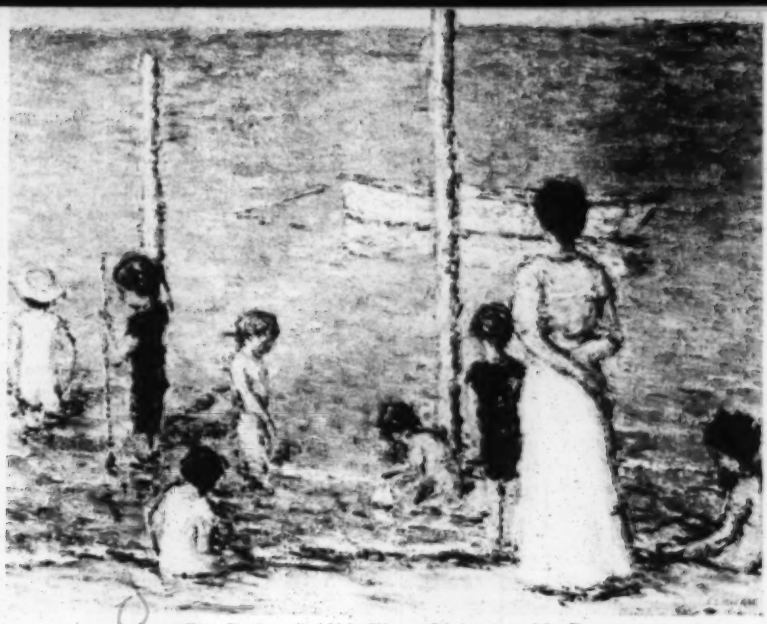
With the restoration of the house underway, the Society turned its attention to the barn, with its dove-cote and clutter of mysterious odds and ends. There, in the hayloft under nearly half a century of dust, debris, and spider webs, were made two of the most important art discoveries of decades—the long lost records of the 1913 Armory Show and the early paintings of MacRae. The old barn had provided the perfect setting for a studio, and shortly after the Inn opened early in

the 1900's, the barn became the headquarters of the "Cos Cob School," with John H. Twachtman as its mentor. Cos Cob was a paintable spot and it was frequented by artists who worked: John H. Twachtman and his son, Alden; Childe Hassam, Louis Comfort Tiffany, H. B. Eddy, Paul Cornoyer, Herman Dudley Murphey, Walter Fitch, and Henry Fitch Taylor. There were those who "just dropped by," like Walt Kuhn, George Luks, Jo Davidson, Arthur B. Davies, William Glackens, Jerome Myers, and a host of other friends of Elmer Livingston MacRae. It was at Cos Cob that Childe Hassam perfected his superb etching techniques and learned to do drypoints. Many of his plates and oils depict "The Holley Inn," its people, and its environs. Some of Twachtman's finest work was done at the old house and in the barn. Among the many writers and editors who stayed or visited at the Holley Inn were Lincoln Steffens, who devoted an entire chapter of his *Autobiography* to the house; Willa Cather, who wrote in the old north bedroom; Wallace Irvin; Bert Liston Taylor; Jean Webster, who wrote *Daddy Long-Legs;* Don Seitz of the *World;* Moody of the *Evening Sun*; and Gilman Hall of *Ainslee's* and *Everybody's*. It was as a little girl that Anya Seton, famous historical novelist and a trustee of the Greenwich Historical Society, first visited the old house with her father, Ernest Thompson Seton.

Elmer Livingston MacRae is remembered as a warm, shy, and sensitive man with boundless modesty and great talents. Born in New York City on July 16, 1875, he was educated in public and private schools, and at Fordham College; he then became a student at the Art Students' League, under Twachtman, Beckwith, Robert Blum, and Siddons Mowbray. The earliest known MacRae, "Woman in a Wicker Chair," is dated 1897, when MacRae was 22. During the next 19 years, he was a prolific worker, his paintings covered many subjects from old New York, Boston, Cos Cob, Martha's Vineyard, and New Haven, to gentle portraits and studies of children, adults, and flowers. Henry Tyrell wrote, in the old New York *World*, October 8, 1910, "The versatility of Mr. MacRae is apparent—the versatility of a tireless enthusiast—and it hangs together, logical, harmonious, progressive. Individuality marks every picture yet there is not one that could be picked out as a typical MacRae. Although he has never been abroad, his is as much of the school of Monet and Sisley and Pissaro as he is a disciple of the American Twachtman."

Early in December 1911, Walt Kuhn, Jerome Myers, Henry Fitch Taylor, and MacRae, bemoaning that it was almost impossible for an American artist to sell his work because of the smug conditions of local art affairs, set about to form a new society. It would be the Association of American Painters and Sculptors, and they would sell the idea of modern American paintings to the American public under the guise of promoting the works of foreign impressionists. For years the intimate details of the Armory Show, which the group organized, have been mysteriously lost. What has been written deals more with its effects on the art world than with the story behind the famous show. The entire story of the enterprise, from its inception until its close in 1915, is told in the cache of letters, diaries, account books, insurance receipts, and miscellaneous material, found in the barn, kept by MacRae who was treasurer of the most sensational exhibition ever held in America. The material is uniquely interesting for it offers specific evidence of exactly what prices were paid in 1913 for works that have since become world famous, and who bought them. MacRae received the second highest price paid for any painting by an American artist—more than twice the amount received by Marcel Duchamp for his "Nude Descending the Staircase."

Since Mr. MacRae died intestate in 1953, supposedly devoid of any assets, it was necessary for the Society to apply for probate in order to dispose of the art



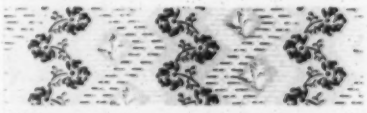
"The Bathers," 1912, Elmer Livingston MacRae

work and the papers. The group had sold only two MacRae paintings in a period of six months, and it was obvious that MacRae, "forgotten artist of the Armory Show," required a re-introduction to the art world and a large scale promotional job had to be done. With this in mind, a group of members bought the entire MacRae collection for a specified sum from the MacRae estate; and they engaged artist Thomas H. Curley to clean, revitalize and restore the paintings. Milch Galleries of New York agreed to stage a one-man MacRae show, which was so successful that it remained for four weeks, a week longer than originally planned. Total gross sales approximated $30,000, with paintings and documents going to some of the most important collectors in the United States. One museum acquired two paintings.

Members of the art group and the furniture group will donate to the Society all profits derived from the sale of MacRae art and furniture. To date the art group has donated $10,000 to the restoration fund.

Since October 1, 1956, the Society has taken in approximately $65,000 and has spent on purchase of the property and the restoration nearly $70,000, the difference being covered by a small mortgage and bank loan. Since the Society acquired the old house, between eight and ten thousand adults have visited it, in addition to hundreds of school children. The 50¢ admissions to the house, which is open six days a week (including Saturdays and Sundays), have brought in approximately a thousand dollars (members, free). Each organization using the house for a meeting has contributed generously as a group —the sum being considered as "contribution" rather than "admission."

Although few groups will have an old barn with a hidden treasure, every group needs the enthusiasm and ingenuity of the Greenwich Historical Society to put its show on the road. —T. B. M.



Wallpaper, with tax stamp of George the Second (1727-60), found in the Bush-Holley House is reproduced by Katzenbach and Warren; matching fabric by Greeff.

PROGRESS REPORT

As "a living symbol" of Kentucky tradition, *Farmington,* Louisville, Ky., was officially opened to the public in April. The spacious 14-room house was built by Judge John Speed in 1810 from designs by Thomas Jefferson. Dedication ceremonies included a re-enactment of the arrival of a 32-year-old, clean-shaven Lincoln, in a stove-pipe hat, who came to *Farmington* in 1841 for a three-week visit with his close friend, Joshua Fry Speed, son of the owner. Joshua was portrayed by his great, great nephew, John Speed; other descendants of the Speed family were at the house, appropriately dressed, to receive their distinguished guest. On display inside the house is the "bread-and-butter" letter Lincoln wrote to the family after his visit. The rose brick, white-trimmed house was restored by Historic Homes Foundation, which purchased it two years ago. Three of its six main floor rooms —the sitting room, dining room, and bedroom—are completely furnished. A fourth room holds Speed family memorabilia, including the 1785 deed to Farmington's original 375 acres signed by Patrick Henry, then governor of Virginia; and a photograph of Jefferson's design for the floor plan.

Bernard Maybeck's plaster-of-Paris masterpiece, the Palace of Fine Arts, left over from the 1915 Panama-Pacific International Exposition in San Francisco, Calif., will be saved from the ravages of time and the elements. Walter S. Johnson, a 74-year-old former San Francisco newspaper boy who grew wealthy in lumber and related businesses, announced his gift of $2 million to the city to be matched by state funds for permanent restoration of the structure. "I've seen many of the world's most beautiful structures—including the Taj Mahal," said Mr. Johnson, who headed a private subscription campaign, "but this one tops them all and it should be saved by the world's most beautiful city." The Palace covers 130,000 square feet, has a concrete foundation, steel frame, and a steel truss roof. Its big rotunda and colonnades are wooden, covered with molded plaster and hemp. It was conceived originally as a temporary structure for the exposition, but the work won such wide acclaim that hopes to save the building persisted through the years although nothing was done. The $4 million will be sufficient to preserve the building. If its interior is refurbished and equipped for conventions or exhibitions, it will cost approximately $1.6 million; a bond issue will be proposed by the city for that amount.

Restoration of Richmond's Church Hill is moving forward. The Hill is an 18-block area which surrounds St. John's Church, where the Virginia Convention of 1775 chartered the state's course toward independence and where Patrick Henry made his plea for "Liberty or Death." Seventy houses in the area antedate the Civil War. Many others, built later, are in architectural harmony with the earlier period. Since its organization in 1956, Historic Richmond Foundation (a Trust member) has purchased 16 houses of historic significance, and the William Byrd Branch of the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities owns two others. Some of these structures have been completely restored and others are in various stages of restoration. Income from rental of the houses, some of which are made into two or three apartments, is put back into a fund for restoration of additional properties. Under a historic zoning ordinance, no exteriors visible from the street may be changed without application to a Board of Architectural Review. The National Park Service has taken over the old Weather Bureau building in Chimborazo Park, site of one of the largest Civil War hospitals, as Richmond Battlefield Park's tourist information service and has spent $73,000 in restoring the building and setting up a battlefield exhibit. The Virginia General Assembly may provide money necessary to acquire a half-block parking area for the influx of tourists during the Civil War Centennial

1961-65. One of the worst impediments to the redevelopment was removed when the city began using natural gas, enacted an Air Pollution Control Ordinance, and railroads and other industry switched from coal to other fuels or installed devices to control industrial smoke.

WRIGHT TESTIMONIAL

In a eulogy to the late Frank Lloyd Wright, published in the New York *Times*, Mrs. Eero Saarinen proposed that the American Institute of Architects and the National Trust for Historic Preservation form a committee to select at least ten outstanding examples of that architect's work worthy of preservation. The proposal was precipitated not only by Wright's death but by the news that Wright's famous Imperial Hotel, which survived the 1923 Tokyo earthquake, faces destruction. The hotel management proposes replacement by an "economic" 10-story hotel, like those on adjoining sites. The land occupied by the hotel is owned by the Japanese government and its value has increased because of the growth of the city and the construction of a new subway. High operating costs of the old Imperial Hotel and the culminative neglect of its structural condition are contributory factors.

In defense of the hotel, architectural critic Frederick Gutheim states, "As a living demonstration of our advanced Western technology with the most profound respect for the cultural and artistic heritage of Japan, 'the old toad' (as the Japanese fondly call the 37-year-old building) ought to be recognized as part of the national patrimony of Japan. Its preservation would give grounds, at least, for hope that the essential Japan can survive the brutalization of modern life."

The committee to determine the outstanding Wright buildings for preservation is composed of Alden B. Dow, Edward D. Stone, Karl Kamrath, Earl H. Reed, E. B. Morris, Jr., and Richard H. Howland.

COMMUNITY FOUNDATIONS

The National Council on Community Foundations met for its annual May meeting in San Francisco, with Richard H. Howland, president of the National Trust, giving the keynote address. Historic preservation as a community activity was considered by the Council, along with health, education, and welfare.

The Council, established in 1949—the same year the National Trust was chartered by Congress—is an association of community foundations and trusts in the United States and Canada. Louis S. Headley, a retired bank president from St. Paul, Minn., and president of the National Council, states, "Individuals ranging from the wealthiest to those with only a few dollars to spare have contributed nearly $300 million through such organizations. These agencies, in turn, see to it that bequests are spent properly and in accordance with the donors' wishes. The foundations offer a repository for capital funds which can be used in perpetuity."

Members of the National Council on Community Foundations also offer safeguards against what happened many years ago in the case of the Brian Mullanphy estate, which was left in perpetuity to aid travelers in covered wagons stranded in St. Louis. Other funds that outlived their usefulness were set up in the nineteenth century to aid runaway slaves, to fight yellow fever and to aid retired sailors from old sailing boats (a Boston foundation with more than $2 million in the bank is now down to its last nine sailors). The foundations accept gifts only with the condition that some alternative use can be made if the original purpose is no longer practical.

Corbit House

Odessa, Delaware

H. Rodney Sharp of Wilmington recently presented Corbit House, Odessa, Del., to the Winterthur Corporation. The gift was made to assure continued preservation of the notable Georgian house and development of an educational program centered about it. Lammont du P. Copeland, president of the Winterthur Corporation, said it is hoped the University of Delaware will play an important part in this program as it has in the Winterthur program in Early American Culture, carried on jointly by the University and The Henry Francis du Pont Winterthur Museum.

Built in 1774 by William Corbit, who operated a tannery on the banks of the Appoquinimink Creek near Odessa, the Corbit House remained in possession of his descendants until 1938 when it was acquired by Mr. Sharp and maintained as a private museum. After four years of research, the house was restored and furnished as it might have appeared during Mr. Corbit's lifetime. Mr. Sharp restored other buildings in the immediate vicinity of Corbit House in order to preserve the colonial character of that part of Odessa, which has been described as a monument to the architectural and social history of Delaware.

Commenting on the gift, Charles F. Montgomery, director of the Winterthur Museum, said, "Fortunately the house is situated in a group of fine early buildings which make Odessa one of the most charming centers of any old town in the country. At a time when historic buildings in America are being destroyed almost daily, Mr. Sharp's preservation of Corbit House is a significant contribution not only to Delaware, but to the entire nation."

Next door to the Corbit House is the David Wilson Mansion, another Georgian colonial house, also operated as a museum. It was built in 1769 for David Wilson, a prosperous merchant; his wife was Mary

Corbit, sister of William. The house was bought during the early 1900's by the original owners' great granddaughter, Mary Corbit Warner, who left it in 1923 as a museum with a good farm and $4,000 in a savings account "to maintain it forever." Corbit descendants today constitute the Board of Directors. The house contains a collection of Wilson and Corbit antiques and mementos, plus rare colonial furniture bequeathed by Dr. and Mrs. J. Newberry Reynolds of Princeton. In order to make the museum useful to the community, in 1924 the Free Corbit Library was moved from an old schoolhouse nearby to a new wing of the house. Successive generations of Corbits contributed to the endowment for the Library since its establishment in 1847 by Dr. James Corbit. It was the first free library in the state and the only one for 47 years. The library serves the old and young in a wide area around the town. Proceeds of Odessa Day, sponsored by Odessa Community Association, are turned over annually to help maintain the museum.

NEWS OF MEMBERS

A grant of $13,500 for a comprehensive historical preservation plan for the city of Newport, R. I., was made to the Preservation Society of Newport County by the Avalon Foundation. The study is to be made by Tunnard and Harris, planning consultants. Christopher Tunnard is director of the graduate program in city planning at Yale University and Walter Deselles Harris is professor of city planning at Yale University. The plan will include a preliminary investigation and analysis of programs immediately affecting city growth and the preservation district; a preliminary fact-gathering data from private groups; schematic land use and diagnostic map to determine physical and visual relationships of the preservation district to other functional areas in the city; preliminary meetings with naval, federal, state and local groups; and drafting of a composite base map for future detailed analytic studies. The project has received the encouragement and cooperation of the Newport Planning Board and the Redevelopment Agency. Robert J. Kerr, II, director of the Preservation Society, stated, "It is the hope of the Society that this will be not only a significant program for the retention of our heritage but the means by which the city may unify its effort for redevelopment of depressed areas and for the creation of a major tourist industry."

The Galveston Historical Foundation, Inc., dedicated the restored Williams-Tucker House on April 15. Williams was a forgotten man and his house unknown when the Foundation started the project in the spring of 1955. Since then they established the historic importance of Samuel May Williams, raised money to pay current real estate prices for the house which was in a state of ruin, and restored the house. Williams was an early Galvestonian who helped to colonize the state of Texas in the days of the Republic and to provide an atmosphere of stability and purpose for the city of Galveston. He ranked next to Stephen F. Austin in importance to the welfare of the Texas colonists whom he served as secretary and land agent. He was commissioner and loan agent from the new Republic of Texas to the United States; and he bought, on his own and his brother's credit, five sailing vessels which became the second Texas navy. He was an ardent Mason and Knights Templar and in 1835 obtained the charter for the first Texas chapter; he was later Grand Master of Texas. Williams initiated the first domestic and foreign trade in Texas through the port of Galveston, where he also established the first incorporated bank in Texas. He was one of the city's founding fathers, built the first successful wharf and the first famous Tremont Hotel. Constructed in 1838, the house is a low, two-storied, gabled, wooden structure. Like many early Galveston houses, it was

framed in New England and shipped to Galveston by schooner. It is made of northern pine, hemlock, and Texas long-needle pine and is anchored on seven-foot brick piers of handpressed brick, shipped from Baltimore. Thomas F. McKinney, Williams' partner in the mercantile business, personally supervised the laying of the foundation.

Frederick L. Rath, Jr., has been made a 1959 fellow of the Rochester Museum of Arts and Sciences. Vice-Director of the New York State Historical Association, Mr. Rath is being honored for his work in the field of historic preservation. Each year the Museum awards fellowships to three persons selected from the Rochester area and three chosen for national distinction. The national fellows, in addition to Mr. Rath, are Dr. Leonard Carmichael, secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, and Dr. Robert T. Hatt, director of the Cranbrook Institute of Science at Bloomfield Hills, Mich. Mr. Rath is well known for his work as historian in charge of the Franklin D. Roosevelt Home at Hyde Park, at the time of its official opening as a national historic site in 1946. For the succeeding ten years he was director of the National Trust.

Van Cortlandt Manor House and its subsidiary buildings on Albany Post Road, Croton-on-Hudson, N. Y., is now open to the public. The house, begun in 1680, was the focal point of the 86,000-acre Stephanus Van Cortlandt Manor. It was saved from disintegration in 1953 when John D. Rockefeller, Jr., and his aides reassembled a tract of 175 acres as part of the Sleepy Hollow Restorations. The wings that had been added in 1810, 1814, and 1847 along with other additions were removed in the restoration which took six years. A ferry house, a kitchen building, an icehouse, docks, and other structures were restored to their early colonial appearance. Unofficial estimates of the cost exceed $1 million. The opening on June 13 was part of the Hudson-Champlain celebration marking the 350th anniversary of the exploration of the Hudson Valley.

Rare old medicine bottles and fixtures that date back to the late nineteenth century, the pride of the late Otto E. Rydell, early Superior druggist for more than 50 years, are to be displayed in the nineteenth-century drugstore being restored by the Wisconsin Historical Society, Stonefield, State Farm and Craft Museum, Cassville. The shelf stock and fixtures have been donated to the historical society by the new owner of Mr. Rydell's drugstore. A representative of the Historical Society stated that the Rydell drugstore was one of the very few in Wisconsin that has been preserved almost in its original condition, ever since it was built and stocked in 1902.

The Eleutherian Mills-Hagley Foundation, Wilmington, Del., has received a gift of a library from the Longwood Foundation, to be devoted to the history of American industry in the area from its earliest colonial beginnings to modern times. The building is to be constructed on the grounds of the original Du Pont powder mills along the west bank of the Brandywine Creek. The gift also includes a collection of books and manuscripts from the Longwood Library created by Pierre S. du Pont. The present library of the Eleutherian Mills-Hagley Foundation already contains archives of the Du Pont Company for the first century of its existence, 1802-1902, and a reference collection dealing with early American industry. The building will be ready for public use by the summer of 1960, as a center of research in industrial history. The exterior of the library building will be of stone and stucco to harmonize with other buildings near the site; the interior will be functional, providing facilities for preserving books and documents.

LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITY

Supported by the unanimous resolution of the American Association for State

and Local History at its April Convention in Denver is a proposal to secure the 30 per cent maximum individual income tax deductions for gifts to historical societies and agencies in the United States; and also to permit them to qualify as agencies which may accept federal surplus properties. Senator William Proxmire (D.-Wis.) has asked the Joint Committee on Internal Revenue Taxation to consider the tax deduction measure, and the Senate Committee on Labor and Public Welfare the proposal on surplus property. The members of the organization have been requested to write their own congressional representatives or to the respective committees in support of these measures.

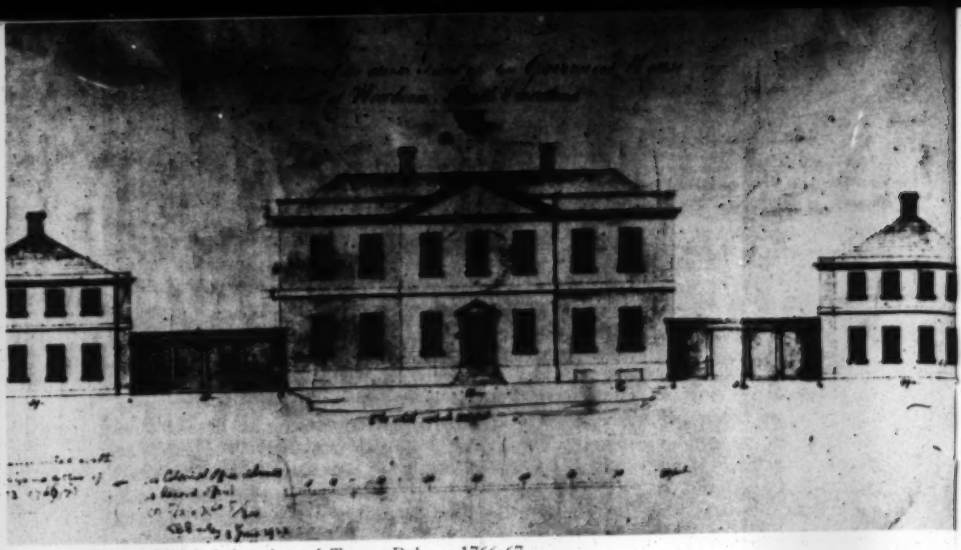
Assistant Secretary of the Interior Roger C. Ernst, in June, transmitted to the Senate Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs a report endorsing Senate Bill 1185 and opposing a less complete bill on the subject, S.575. The bill is designed to provide for the preservation of historical and archaeological data which might otherwise be lost under waters impounded by large-scale water control projects throughout the nation. The proposed legislation, he reported, "reflects a growing public awareness of its increasing loss of this national heritage through such federal and private activities."

At the very end of its last session, the state legislature of Rhode Island passed an enabling act permitting cities and towns of that state to plan area zoning at local option for the preservation of historic and architectural values in old neighborhoods. This movement has been effectively supported by the six member organizations of the National Trust in the state.

The city of Providence is publishing its College Hill Master Plan, which costs $72,800, took 18 months to prepare, and is designed to incorporate restoration and preservation of the best of the area's architectural riches in an urban renewal program that will change the lower East Side of the city into the present and provide for future growth. The study was sponsored by the city which secured a two-thirds grant from U. S. Housing and Home Finance Agency for a pilot plan in the field. Interested citizens, led by Providence Preservation Society, raised the needed $18,530 as their share. The 224-page report, *College Hill—a Demonstration Study in Historic Renewal,* will be described in full in our next issue. The Very Rev. Darby Wood Betts, dean of the Cathedral of St. John, chairman of the coordinating committee appointed to carry the plan into effect, described it as "artistic and reasonable." Dean Betts defined its goal "as a plan to preserve and use history—not to repeat it, but to add to it."

In addition to its cooperative and supporting role in the Providence program, the National Trust in the past quarter has sent preliminary information and advice on community programs to interested cities and towns who have requested advice by mail. Among those working toward developing programs for conservation and development of historic districts in their areas to whom materials were sent, and some consultations offered are: Johnstown and Cooperstown, N. Y.; Opelousas and Natchitoches, La.; Dahlonega and Roswell, Ga.; Uniontown, N. J.; Vicksburg, Miss.; Litchfield, Conn.; Auburn, Sacramento, and Santa Barbara, Calif.; Cincinnati, Ohio; Galena, Ill.; Portsmouth, N. H.; New Bern, N. C.; and Aspen, Colo.

A bill to make a national monument of the Justin Smith Morrill homestead, Strafford, Vt., was introduced in March by U. S. Representative William H. Meyer (D.-Vt.). The Strafford Historical Society is leading a move to make a permanent memorial of the house where Morrill lived during his senatorial career. The Society has been working with several groups on projects concerned with the centennial celebration in 1962 of Morrill's most memorable achievement, the Land Grant College Act which led to the establishment of 68 colleges throughout the United States.



John Hawks' drawing of Tryon Palace, 1766-67

Tryon Palace Restoration

Tryon Palace

"Several persons who have passed through here," wrote Governor Tryon, ". . . esteem this house the capital building on the continent of North America." Francisco de Miranda, the South American patriot, wrote that the Palace was a building "which really merits the attention of the wise traveler . . . it has no equal in South America."

The reconstructed Tryon Palace, New Bern, N. C., relived its colonial role when North Carolina General Assembly members and state officials gathered for the official opening. The original palace had served as North Carolina's colonial capitol from 1770-75 and from 1776-94 as its first state capitol. It was designed by John Hawks, an architect, who came from England in 1764 with William Tryon, the first royal governor of the colony of North Carolina. Because he was its first occupant, Tryon's name became permanently attached to the imposing edifice, which was destroyed by fire in 1798. The remaining east wing was torn down years later; the only original part of the restored building which survived was the west wing. The building, including the gate posts and sentry boxes, and the gardens have been rebuilt upon original foundations and sites, following the original sketches of John Hawks. Pre-1770 furniture has been assembled in the rooms, in accordance with the inventory of the furnishings which the first governor brought with him.

The proposal for the palace was one cause of a bloody revolt by oppressed backwoods farmers four years before the outbreak of the American Revolution. These farmers, who called themselves Regulators, objected to the way in which a tax—to raise the $75,000 which the palace cost—was levied. It was a head tax which forced the poor farmer to pay as much as the wealthy landowner. They did not seem to have hated Tryon as much as his tax collectors, who did not hesitate to seize a farmer's only horse if he got behind in his tax payments. The Regulator movement culminated in the Battle of Alamance Creek, where on May 16, 1771, Governor Tryon with an army of about 1,100 men crushed the Regulator army of 2,000 to 3,000, half of them unarmed, and hanged six of its leaders.

Although painted as a tyrant during the hysteria of the Revolution and its aftermath, Tryon was later described by historians as the ablest of North Carolina's colonial governors. He left the colony a year after his palace was completed to become New York's last royal governor.

The reconstruction, in process for seven years, was made possible by a bequest from the late Mrs. Maude Moore Latham. More than $3 million was spent on the buildings, furnishings, and surrounding formal gardens. The state legislature appropriated $227,000 toward the purchase of the land on Palace Square. The palace has been deeded to the state of North Carolina and is administered by the Tryon Palace Commission. Officers of the Commission are Mrs. John A. Kellenberger (daughter of the benefactress, Mrs. Latham), chairman; Mrs. Charles A. Cannon; Miss Virginia Horne; Mrs. Paul L. Borden; and John A. Kellenberger. Miss Gertrude S. Carraway is restoration director.

THAT SOBER SECOND LOOK

In June 1956 the federal-aid highway program got the green light. It took the ancient Romans five centuries to link an empire with a roadway 50,000 miles long. The timetable for forging a vast 41,000 mile network of interstate and defense highways for the United States was estimated for a brief 13 years. The land cost was set at two million acres and the dollar cost at $27.5 billion.

For 16 months the steel-jawed power shovels and bulldozers have been at work, and the program has just really begun to move. Before it goes through, or around, nine out of every ten cities of over 50,000 population, a conservative estimate of the time required for completion is 20 years. The price tag is up to $40 billion. Our biggest cities will be traversed by freeways and rimmed by beltways. Building a freeway through a city comes high. San Francisco has a double-deck, eight-lane bit of highway costing more than $7½ million which is .6 of a mile long. It costs a lot less in immediate dollars to build in rural and wilderness areas, and in parks or through small villages.

The foregoing are statistics and the marvel of it all. The monster bulldozers are incredible in the speed with which they can push down dirt and topsoil at a tremendous rate to make it ready for the great pan-scrapers that can scoop out 100 yards of topsoil and debris at one bite.

"America's Magic Carpet" they first called it—the greatest public works project in history. But there's a swelling rumble of discontent—voices calling from and for the wilderness; they call it "The Tiger Through the Gate." *Landscape Architecture* asks the pertinent question "New Highways: Number One Enemy?" to which ten experts suggest ways for remedying some of the evils.

Grady Clay, staff writer of the Louisville (Ky.) *Courier-Journal*, in a paper presented to the 59th annual meeting of the American Society of Landscape Architects last June warns that highway planning and community planning are not necessarily synonymous, that "paving an interstate highway does not produce a transportation system; that we must live with the monsters we create; and that the purpose of a highway is to help create a better civilization. This is a tool—not an end in itself."

Greatest deficiency in the Federal-aid Highway Act as originally passed, according to Mr. Clay, is the total failure to recognize how essential it is that these highways be located in relation to comprehensive community planning. Routes are plotted from the air, determined in secrecy, and public hearings have become virtually affairs where "at worst aggrieved persons may hear very sound reasons why things cannot be altered."

And there are aggrieved persons. We hear from them almost every day. The burden of proof against highway locations that destroy historic sites and buildings, rive whole towns and small villages, and invade our parks and wilderness areas is thrown back upon private individuals or small dedicated groups of concerned citizens.

Clay cites a case of a citizens' group opposing a proposed interstate highway through three city parks who were turned aside with the remark that "the route is not pinned down yet." Their suggestion on re-routing another portion, on which hearings had been held, was dismissed with the comment that no changes could be made "because of the state's investment in engineering studies and efforts."

More than one bitter homeowner has commented that if you must get involved with a highway project pray that it will come directly through your house—not leave you perched on a cliff that once was a high hill with the road roaring below, nor down in a gulch that was once a lovely rural road with the "magic carpet" flying above, nor cut off from access to the once tranquil roadway past your door.

The story of Broome County, N. Y.,

published in *Harper's* in December and reprinted in the *Reader's Digest* under the title "Extinction by Throughway — the Fight to save a Town," has been spread on the pages of the *Congressional Record.* This is one story with a happy ending, for it demonstrates that Hillcrest, a little village of 3000, about one mile long and a half-mile wide, fought for ten months for its very life and won against the majesty of the N. Y. State Department of Public Works and the U. S. Bureau of Public Roads. Placing a six-lane highway, with four access roads and four traffic circles, on an already developed community would have obliterated it. With the donated help of engineers from nearby industrial plants, who lived in the town, with the support of every possible community group, they submitted an alternate plan costing appreciably less, which was accepted.

Said Polly Praeger of Hillcrest, commenting on their victory, "A network of superhighways across the face of America will be an empty achievement if it kills democratic processes and ignores long-range community planning. Our experience has convinced me that Congress was wise in providing citizens with the opportunity to be heard on a program that deeply affects so many lives."

Congress has become increasingly wise. In the present Congress, bi-partisan bills to amend the Historic Sites Act of 1935 have been introduced in both House and Senate. The amendments are designed to protect sites, buildings, and objects of national historical significance from destruction by federally sponsored projects (highways and urban renewal chiefly) or private interests.

When the voice of the bulldozer is heard on *your* land, in *your* parks, and the wrecking ball starts swinging at the most cherished historic building in *your* town, it may be too late. Study the legislation now in Congress and support wise legislation to balance some of the human values against some of the statistical ones. It is later than you think.

—H. D. B.

1959 ANNUAL MEETING

October 9 through 11 have been chosen as the dates for the 1959 annual meeting. The meeting will be held in Washington, D. C., with headquarters in the Mayflower Hotel. Registration blanks and programs will be mailed to all members and member organizations immediately after Labor Day.

TOWN HALL FOR $1.00

On October 1, 1957, the Athol Historical Society purchased from the town of Athol, Mass., its 1827 town hall and first church building for $1.00. Less than two years ago this Society was hardly in existence with a few exhibits in three rooms of a loaned, private tenement. Its officers persuaded the town of Athol to convey to the Society the old church and town hall building in an effort to save the landmark from being sold to the highest bidder and from eventual demolition. It is now the property of the Society to hold as long as it is used for historical purposes.

A unique plan was announced to raise the $6,000 needed for the restoration. In 1734 Athol, then called Pequig, was laid out in 60 plots of land with 60 proprietors. The Society sought 60 new proprietors who would contribute $100 each to represent the original 60 and their names will appear on a bronze plaque in the vestibule of the building. On January 29, 1959, the Society had reached its goal. Two of the new proprietors are direct descendants of first settlers. Completion of the restoration is planned for 1962 when Athol will celebrate its two-hundredth anniversary. The building will be a center of attraction. The old Hook organ (the eighty-third organ made by the Hook Brothers) that 111 years ago welcomed parishioners to Athol's first church will sound forth, and the old bell installed in the tower in 1828 will announce the two-hundredth anniversary of the incorporation of the town of Athol.

Four Poe Houses

—Nelson Lansdale, a National Trust member and contributor to Horizon, Theatre Arts, Saturday Review, House & Garden, etc.

It is often said that America neglects her famous poets. But if Edgar Allan Poe is taken as a case in point, the answer is easy: not after they are dead. The 150th anniversary of his birth finds Poe enshrined in memorials, three of them in houses he occupied, in four major Atlantic seaboard cities—Richmond, Baltimore, Philadelphia, and New York. This tabulation does not include the room on the Range at the University of Virginia which he occupied in 1828 as a student, now maintained by the Raven Society and open to the public. Here, in less than one academic year he ran up a staggering $2,500 in debts his foster father refused to honor. Even the U. S. Military Academy at West Point has a memorial door to remind visitors that—however improbable

Poe Cottage, Poe Park, The Bron

Poe House, Richmond, Va.

, The Bronx, New York City

it seems—his fellow cadets of 1830-31 chipped in as subscribers to the first publication in book form of "To Helen" and "Israfel" in *Poems by Edgar A. Poe.* Among American poets, only Longfellow is more widely remembered.

The son of actors, Poe happened to be born (January 19, 1809) in Boston, but his boyhood home was Richmond, Va., where his mother died when he was only four. Her grave may be seen in St. John's churchyard, where Patrick Henry delivered the famous "Give me liberty, or give me death" speech. Poe was unofficially adopted by the John Allans of Richmond (whose name he added to his own). A dour, sanctimonious Scotsman with whom the poet was temperamentally at odds even as a schoolboy, Allan footed the bills for Poe's education for five years in England and privately in Richmond. After a long series of bitter quarrels, however, Poe was cut off without a cent when Allan died in 1834.

Poe's own family, as distinguished from the Allans, lived in Baltimore, where he went in 1829 awaiting an appointment to West Point, and to which he returned in 1831 after he had himself dismissed from the Academy because Allan wouldn't give him an allowance. The household, on Wilks and later on Amity Street, Baltimore, included his elderly grandmother, eking out her days on the pension allotted a Revolutionary quartermaster's widow; his brother William, dying of tuberculosis and alcoholism; his aunt, Mrs. Maria Clemm, who also became his mother-in-law when the poet, 26, married her 13-year-old daughter Virginia.

After the West Point debacle Poe came to Baltimore as the unknown, unsung author of three slim volumes of poetry;

203 Amity Street, Baltimore, Md.

in the attic bedroom of the "little house on the lowly street with the lovely name" he began writing prose fiction in short story form; here he virtually invented the modern horror story. Here he won a $50 prize in a competition held by the weekly *Saturday Visitor* and began contributing to the *Southern Literary Messenger* in Richmond. In Baltimore, too, what would today be called his extreme allergy to alcohol came to the fore; Poe was not, as he has often been called, a drunk, but a single glass of wine could incapacitate him for days. Except that he happened to die there, Poe left Baltimore for good in 1835; the Amity Street house was privately owned for more than a century thereafter, when it was acquired by the Baltimore Housing Authority as part of a seven-acre slum clearance project. The local Poe Society came to the rescue, repaired, and furnished the house in period, installed a curator, and now is entrusted with administration of the city's chief literary memorial.

Poe left Baltimore in 1835 for his first real job, and the one he was to hold longest, as assistant editor of the *Southern Literary Messenger;* Mrs. Clemm and Virginia followed to keep house for him. Today Richmond's Oldest House, a sturdy story-and-a-half of hand-hewn river stone on Main Street—which was already 150 years old when he lived and worked in the neighborhood—is a museum in his memory. It contains the secretary-desk and chair he used at *The Messenger,* his one attempt at oil painting (a weak waterfall), the cane he believed marked him as a gentleman, and the sad little metal-bound trunk in which he kept his manuscripts (the key was in his pocket when he was found dying in a Baltimore tavern in 1849). In addition to assorted portraits, including one of seven existing daguerrotypes, the Poe Shrine in Richmond claims ownership of "perhaps the finest collection of autograph Poe manuscripts in America"; these are kept for safety's sake in the Virginia State Library. In the pleasant little garden behind the house on Main Street, visitors exchange anecdotes about being misdirected to "the po' house."

Poe left Richmond to try his luck in New York without conspicuous success. In 1838 he moved to Philadelphia and ultimately to the largest and most expensive house ($10 a month) he ever rented, at

Poe Room, 13 West Range, University of Virginia, 1938

530 North Seventh Street. Here, in a house furnished in period and open to the public since 1934, he wrote "The Tell-Tale Heart," "The Pit and the Pendulum," "The Black Cat," "The Gold Bug," "The Purloined Letter" and the first draft of "The Raven" (for which he received a princely $10). The museum owns and exhibits a large group of manuscripts, various editions, including first publication of many of the stories in *Burton's Magazine*, assorted portraits and other memorabilia, including the miniature of the poet which was one of Maria Clemm's treasured possessions. The Philadelphia period (1838-44) was perhaps Poe's most productive, in spite of the problems of alcoholism, drug addiction, and general nervous instability. Added to grinding poverty was the increasingly serious illness of his child-wife Virginia.

Poe reacted by running away, this time with Virginia, to New York, leaving the faithful Mrs. Clemm to close the Philadelphia house and follow them into a succession of boarding houses in Manhattan. In May 1846 they moved into the saddest of them all, a plain little workingman's cottage at Kingsbridge Road and the Grand Concourse in the Bronx. Here in his last home Virginia died; all of them nearly perished from starvation that same bitter winter (1847). Poe survived and here he wrote "Annabel Lee" in Virginia's memory, "To My Mother" (for Mrs. Clemm), and "The Bells," one of the supreme examples of its type in the English language.

The original furnishings include his Bible, rocking chair and looking glass, their bedstead rescued from an old barn in the vicinity by the Bronx Society of the Arts and Sciences, which in 1913 moved the house a few hundred yards north to its present location in its own little park. After the poet's death, Mrs. Clemm gave away most of the furniture, perhaps in exchange for handouts of food. Originals have been replaced with simple objects of the period, and the cottage restored to the appearance which prompted one visitor to remark: "So neat, so poor, so unfurnished and yet so charming a dwelling I never saw."

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENTS

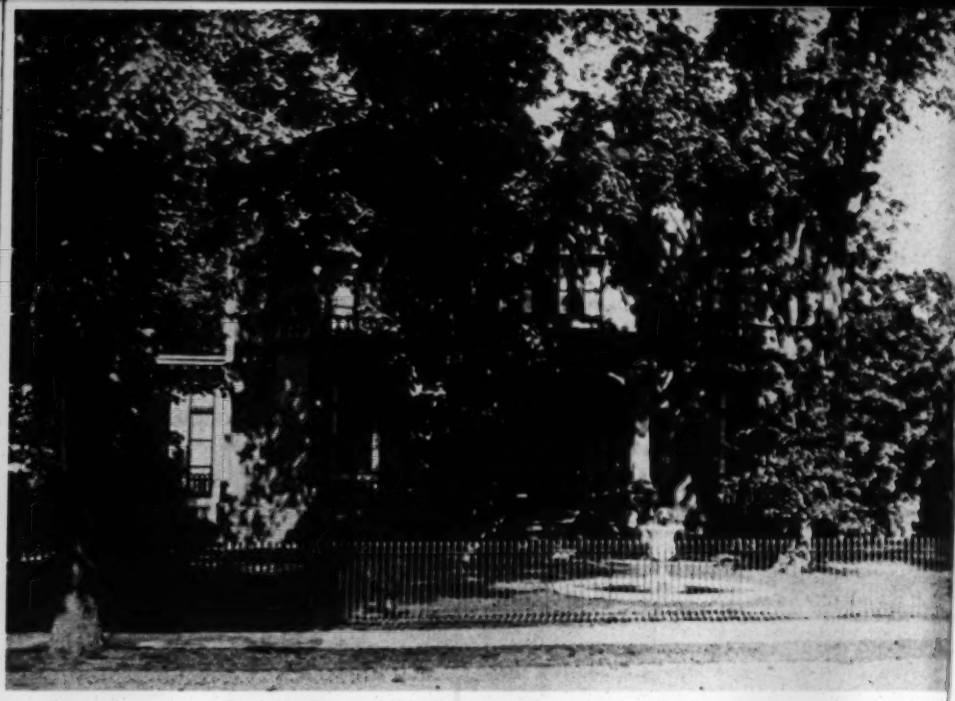
"The Chouteau House"

Touch not a stone! Let the old pile decay,
A relic of the time, now pass'd away.
Ye heirs, who own
Lordly endowment of the ancient hall,
Till the last rafter crumbles from the wall,
And each old tree around the dwelling rots,
Yield not your heritage for "building lots."
Hold the old ruin for itself alone;
Touch not a stone!

(By M. C. Field in Wild's *Valley of the Mississippi*, 1841. Enclosed in a letter from Richard S. Hagen, Historical Consultant, Division of Parks and Memorials, Department of Conservation, State of Illinois.)

The Rev. William A. Horigan, S.J., writes in appreciation of our article in Volume 11, No. 1, on the restoration of the St. Aloysius Church, Washington, D. C.:

"Our appeal for funds evoked a two-fold response. Some felt that it was useless to spend money to restore a church in a slum area. These were in the minority, thank God. The vast majority felt as we did and supported their convictions with contributions which exceeded by $35,000 the original campaign goal of $50,000.00, which was deemed the minimum necessary to carry out the renovating and decorating program. About 85 per cent of the gifts came from those who are not resident members of the parish but retain a tender and affectionate regard for the old church."



Fountain Elms, c 1873. On the steps are Mrs. James Watson Williams, and her daughters Rachel and Maria, who became Mrs. Thomas R. Proctor and Mrs. Frederick T. Proctor.

GRACEFUL, YET FUNCTIONAL

"New York still has plenty of stately mansions, at least when you see them from the outside," says a New York *Herald Tribune* editorial. "But inside they are mansions no more—they are embassies, consulates and U. N. missions, schools and libraries, foundations and offices, and any number of other things. Recently the elegant James B. Duke house, One East Seventy-Eighth Street, joined the ranks of the converted. The three-story, 32-room house is now New York University's Institute of Fine Arts. Yesterday's ballroom is today's lecture hall, and its eighteenth-century chandeliers sparkle over the heads of frowning students, not smiling waltzers. The dining room is for reading, and the servants' quarters have turned into study rooms—a logical shift, for servants have become the invisible class and there is no shortage of students. Death and taxes have toppled many of New York's great houses in the East Sixties, Seventies, and Eighties, and apartments have risen in their place. But a gratifying number have been spared this fate, and in their new institutional guise they continue to add grace to the city. For amid the modern desks and shiny filing cabinets that now fill the various rooms, there is usually a glimpse of parquetry, or a curving marble staircase, or a Venetian mirror, or, as in the Duke house, a Gainsborough on the wall. They are haughty ghosts from an Edwardian age, hanging on in a brave new world of typewriters and I.B.M. machines."

Salisbury Mansion, Worcester, Mass., is being restored for both historic and civic uses. The colonial mansion was purchased in November by the non-profit Mansion Associates to preserve it as a "living civic center" and a museum of Worcester's early days. Repairs on the

structure, built in 1772 by Stephen Salisbury, are being financed by donations from interested individuals. Part of the house will be occupied by the Girl Scout Council of Southern Worcester County, the largest council in Massachusetts and one of the largest in New England.

The Munson-Williams-Proctor Institute (a Trust member), Utica, N. Y., will transform its present art gallery building into a house museum, in an effort to bring back to the area an example of the cultural heritage of 1850 as reflected in its architecture and furnishings. It will be known by its traditional name, *Fountain Elms*, derived from two stately elms which were planted about 1835 and stood over 90 years on either side of the fountain in front of the residence. The house is a Tuscan villa, built by Mr. and Mrs. James Watson Williams in 1850. Designed by Albany architect William L. Woollett, its restoration will start in June 1959 from original plans in the possession of the Institute. Furniture from the Munson, Williams, and Proctor families will be used with other appropriate pieces, partly from the Institute's regional collection. The plan for the first floor includes an octagonal drawing room, dining room, library, and master bedroom. On the second floor will be the new office of the Oneida Historical Society, two meeting rooms, and three galleries for historical exhibitions, utilizing items from the Institute and the Oneida Historical Society's collections and selected loans. A small restaurant, decorated in the style of the house, will be available for museum visitors, guests, and members of the staff. The basement, now in use as offices, workrooms, and art storage space, will be converted for the use of groups active in allied art fields. Under construction 176 feet from the nineteenth-century *Fountain Elms* is the new art gallery and administration building, designed by Philip Johnson. A three-level terrace, to be constructed between the two buildings, will be progressively stepped down from the street front to the Institute's School of Art, housed in the two remodeled carriage houses of the Proctor families.

The eighteenth-century framework of an old tavern in Annapolis, Md., which recently opened as the Treadway Maryland Inn, discreetly hides the twentieth-century web of wiring for such anachronisms as air conditioning, bake shops, and walk-in freezers. Walnut bannisters and woodwork and many original fireplaces retain the domestic atmosphere intended by its builder, Thomas Hyde, in the 1770's. A small taproom is known as the "Drummer's Lot," referring to the property on which the Inn stands. It was this portion of land adjoining Church Circle which was set aside for the town drummer, whose role in early Annapolis life closely paralleled that of the New England town crier. In October the Inn served a colonial dinner to 100 members of Historic Annapolis, Inc., as a feature of their annual Heritage Week.

Two remodeled carriage houses of the Proctor families occupied by the School of Art of the Munson-Williams-Proctor Institute. Adult classes, day and evening sessions in painting, drawing, sculpture, ceramics, and metal work, with an enrollment of 750 persons, are conducted in the school. The art program includes children's after-school, Saturday, and summer classes in drawing, painting, sculpture, clay modeling, metal crafts, weaving, and music, with an enrollment of 1,053. A special Wednesday night class, for high school students, attracts 67 boys and girls.

One of the oldest houses in Union, N. J., is jointly occupied by the Playtime Co-operative Nursery School and the Union Historical Society. Two rooms on the upper floor of the 100-year-old house, part of which may be pre-Revolutionary, have been set aside for the Historical Society. To the 50 children, three to five years old, who attend the School, the two-story building affords unusual features for play. There is a huge fireplace that makes a convenient hideaway or reading area. Another room, believed to have been used as a smokehouse, has a water pump over a wooden trough for toy boating.

The new lower school of the Agnes Irwin School, Wynnewood, Pa., is the 200-year-old Sorrell Horse Tavern on the old Lancaster Road between Philadelphia and the West. The oldest part of the house, built around 1741, is that now occupied by the dining room which is entered through the original front door of the Tavern. In 1759 two adjoining rooms were added for the use of the landlord and his family, with two large bedrooms above which have become the fourth-grade classroom. In 1796 the new Lancaster Pike was opened and the Sorrell Horse Tavern was no longer on the main road. The Inn became a farmhouse and remained unchanged until just before 1900 when it was modernized. In 1931 the back part of the house was completely rebuilt, and the house generally assumed its present appearance.

The Newberry County Courthouse, Newberry, S. C., erected in 1850, now houses the Newberry-Saluda Regional Library, the Ladies Lounge, and the offices of the Newberry County Development Board on its first floor. Upstairs is a community hall with complete kitchen facilities operated under the sponsorship of the Newberry Civic League. This assembly room, accommodating about 300 people, is the meeting place for Newberry's service clubs and is rented to other groups for meetings and banquets. The

Old Newberry County Courthouse, Newberry, S. C.

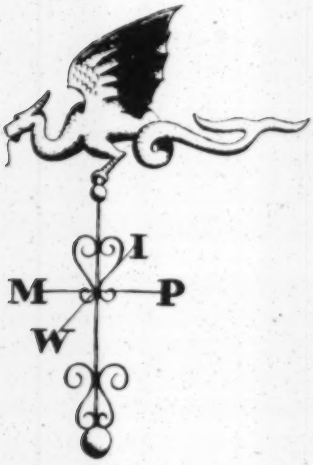
symbolic design on the front, added during repairs following the Civil War, signifies the southern spirit that prevailed during the Reconstruction. Osborne Wells, who had the contract for the repairs, conceived the idea of adding the symbols on the pediment. The explanation of the design, which was often repeated by Mr. Wells to his descendants, is that the palmetto tree (this tree being a part of the South Carolina coat of arms) signifies an uprooted state government which is being held in the beak of the American eagle. Representing the federal government, the eagle weighs in the scales of justice the people of the state: on the base end stands a cock in an unvanquished attitude even though down, its wings extended as if defiantly crowing, and in the gold dollar that is his right eye is a "wicked, baleful glare"; on the other end among the branches and leaves is the dove of peace with the olive branch in its mouth, the eternal emblem of peace.

In 1954 *The Chronicle*, a sporting journal, restored an old brick house on the main street of Middleburg, Va. The magazine shares the house with the National Sporting Library, Inc., the only public

library in the country devoted wholly to sports. The editor of *The Chronicle* is Alexander Mackay-Smith, who lives at Lucky Hit Farm in a restored house, headquarters of the famous old horse farm. His wife is a noted painter of horse portraits.

The 1802 stone courthouse in Greensburg, Ky., houses a 4,000 volume library, one of the state's regional library chains. The building had been only occasionally used for the past 20 years; since it stands in the center of town, there was always recurring agitation to tear it down for additional automobile parking. The recent conversion blocked such talk, and Green County residents are enjoying their new library. Cooperation among various organizations and hard work on the part of several individuals were required in making the library a reality. The Green County Fiscal Court gave most of the money for the project with additional help from the City Council, the County School, and civic and business groups. Approximately $1,400 was raised to remodel the interior of the old building.

—T. B. M.



DESTRUCTION

Rochester, N. Y. Located on the old Erie Canal, Norris House is the victim of the Eastern Thruway feeder to be built in the subway bed where the slow waters of the canal once flowed. The house is dated about 1824 by Walter H. Cassebeer, writing on "Architecture in Rochester" in 1932. He stated: "It is interesting as a simple colonial house, showing the influence of the architects of the Hudson River Valley." He considered Norris House one of three frame houses of importance on the east side of the river. Since the house was built, the stream of traffic on the canal dwindled to a trickle, mules and horses vanished from the towpath, and the ditch was abandoned for a new mechanized waterway southward. Rochester's bold dream was fulfilled with a rapid transit subway railroad in the bed of the Erie. This too gave way to progress, and 30 years later the whine of the electric cars faded, the tracks were torn up, and again the ditch was empty.

Des Moines, Iowa. One of the two large-scale examples of ornate mid-Victorian architecture remaining in Des Moines has reached the end of its time. "The building was in very bad condition," explained an official of National Handicraft Institute, Inc., the present owners. "The cost of rebuilding was just prohibitive." One estimate for putting the roof and eaves into good condition was $20,000. The 20-room brick mansion was built in

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The decorative symbol, used by the Munson-Williams-Proctor Institute to give a continuity to its publication, was inspired by the copper wivern on the weathervane of the School of Art building, formerly the Thomas R. Proctor carriage house. The wivern or wyvern is a species of dragon with only two legs; when blazoned properly it has a green head, back and legs, and red chest, belly and inside of wings. A forerunner of the wivern appeared on the Bayeaux Tapestry as the dragon of Wessex, the standard of the English.

1866, at an estimated $50,000, by Wesley Redhead, a friendly, successful, and devout pioneer. He came to Fort Des Moines in 1851 and became Polk County's largest operator of coal mines. He was a lawyer, leading bookseller and stationer, and the original vice president of the Equitable Life Insurance Company of Iowa. The old house was a center of hospitality in the oil lamp and gaslight eras and was a showplace for generations. Everything was on a grand scale. *Seven Gables*—as Redhead called his house—took a ton of coal to heat each day in cold weather. As many as 14 hogs hung in the smokehouse in back. "We never had fewer than 20 persons for breakfast," a Redhead recalled many years ago. Wesley Redhead also saw to it that if you ate breakfast at *Seven Gables,* you first got down on your knees before one of the nine fireplaces for the family's morning devotions.

Reading, Pa. Bushong's covered bridge was saved five years ago from the wrecker, but it was destroyed by fire in March. An arsonist was blamed for setting the blaze that dropped the 93-year-old structure into the Tulpehocken Creek. In 1954 when the Berks County Commissioners were considering the bridge's destruction for a modern structure, 500 persons signed a petition that saved it. It was then given a roof, siding, and floor repairs.

Richmond, Va. Two 13-ton granite columns that stood firm through the fire that swept the fallen capital of the Confederacy on April 3, 1865, were destroyed May 1958, and the "deed" has just come to light. The state of Virginia paid $200 to have the fluted Corinthian columns hauled away. They were broken up and are now a pile of rubble in the backyard of a monument works. Since 1935 the columns reposed prone and forsaken among the silent cannons near Battle Abbey. Theirs is a long story since the day 118 years ago when 16 oxen hauled them up the hills from Rocketts, Richmond's old harbor. They had been incorporated in 1841 into the portico of the old Exchange Bank, designed by Isiah Rogers, and stood through the disastrous fire. In the 1930's another bank building which they had graced since 1867 was destroyed. The columns were then purchased and presented to the R. E. Lee Camp, Confederate Veterans, to be incorporated in some future structure. When the R. E. Lee Camp went out of existence, the columns were passed on to the United Daughters of the Confederacy. The U.D.C. constructed a new building, but the architect was unable to fit the granite columns into the marble-faced design. They remained in the park, making it difficult to cut grass and were a hazard to children who delighted to climb over them. Prior to 1841 the columns had been hewn out of granite strata in quarries near Quincy, Mass. They were designed for a building in New York City but were bought by Richmond interests when they proved too short for the New York structure. Spokesmen for the state said they were sorry if they had done wrong for they thought they had asked all interested if they had further use for the columns. Dr. Wyndham B. Blanton, Sr., of the William Byrd branch of the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities and the Historic Richmond Foundation, stated, "I wish we had known; we might have erected them at Battle Abbey as a memorial."

New Orleans, La. The old Mercy Building, with its high sloping roof, huge white-columned galleries and massive rooms, has been dismantled. More than 35 years ago it was donated to the Sisters of Mercy, to serve as a hospital although it was constructed around 1832 by François Saulet as a plantation mansion. Samuel Wilson, Jr., of the Louisiana Landmarks Society, states that the old building was one of the few remaining examples of the suburban dwellings which once extended from the limits of the Faubourg St. Mary at Howard Avenue in continuous succession up the river. The architect of the house has remained anonymous. When the Sisters moved to a modern hospital building six years ago, they hoped someone would take over and restore the building.

IN DANGER

Flushing, L. I., N. Y. Innerwick, built in 1670 when the lower section of its Dutch doors had to be closed to keep out wandering cows, is scheduled for destruction. It may be saved only if it is moved from the site. One suggestion is that a Queens "historical park" be developed within Flushing Meadow Park, and that funds for such a project be raised by civic and business organizations and through the schools. The story is told that on Christmas Eve, 1779, the townspeople burned the house to drive out Hessian soldiers who were quartered there. The ell, however, is thought to be of original construction; the main part of the house was rebuilt in 1790. Its first owner was Col. Archibald Hamilton, one of the Tories concerned in a plot to assassinate George Washington in his camp in Brooklyn before the Battle of Long Island. The last owners were Dr. and Mrs. Clarence Brazer. In the will of Dr. Brazer, who died in 1956, the house was offered for sale to the Esther Stevens Brazer Guild of the Historical Society of Early American Decoration. Initially, the Guild had planned to buy the house and operate it as a museum, with the thousands of early American decorative patterns which were recorded by the late Esther Stevens Brazer, as well as her collection of decorated antiques.

Richmond, Va. A two-story frame house, that probably served as a hospital during the Civil War Battle of Fair Oaks, is headed for demolition. The owner will give the building to anyone who will move and preserve it for historical purposes. A woman's club was offered the house several years ago but it decided it was too much of a task to take over. Civil War authorities believe the crumbling building is one depicted as a hospital in "Battles and Leaders of the Civil War," a drawing used to illustrate an account of the Battle of Fair Oaks, part of the fighting around Richmond during McClellan's Peninsular Campaign of 1862.

Denver, Colo. Denver University's efforts to preserve the past clash with the city traffic engineer's desire to keep up with the present. The University purchased the 1878 Evans Memorial Chapel, believed to be the oldest church in Denver, and wants to move it to its University Park campus. The land will be converted into parking facilities for its new law center. In its new location the old building would serve as a small meditation chapel on the South Denver campus and for student weddings. The traffic engineer noted the chapel weighs about 848,000 pounds, "and while I'm as interested in preserving the past as anyone, I can't feature the chapel being transferred along major arterial streets. We have enough trouble with chicken coops."

Cheraw, S. C. The fate of Matheson House hangs in balance. Prior to 1810 the eight-room house was constructed jointly by the Masons, who used the upper story for its meetings, and the Cheraw Academical Society, which maintained a school on the ground floor. It was purchased four years later by John Matheson as a residence. After the burning of Columbia, General Sherman went on to Cheraw and was met on the outskirts by a number of citizens who explained there were no soldiers there and asked him to spare the town. General Sherman spared Cheraw and chose the Matheson property as the base of military operations, ordering his tent pitched on the lawn. In 1956 the last of the Matheson family gave the old house to the town for a library. Some thought the plan impracticable, and although the offer was accepted, the house has not been used as a library. The Explorer Scouts and the Civil Air Patrol meet there occasionally, but with this exception, the house is deserted and is being destroyed by vandals.

Danville, Ky. A 107-year-old building that has been called one of the three most artistic pieces of architecture in Danville is approaching the end of a long period of usefulness. It is the old chapel at the Kentucky School for the Deaf, built in

Repeal of the 1956 act of Congress, directing the sale of the Indian burial grounds of the Wyandotte tribe in Kansas City, Kan., is sought by local citizens who have signed petitions, written their congressmen, and appeared before a hearing at the Department of Interior in defense of the historic site. Known as Huron Cemetery, it is a park square in the center of the city and was reserved by the last treaty between the Wyandottes and the federal government in 1855. The 1956 act provided for the termination on August 1, 1959, of federal supervision and services over the trust, as set forth in the treaty. Mayor Paul Mitchum is leading the fight for the preservation of the cemetery as provided in bills sponsored by Representative Newell George (D.-Kan.). Other groups active in the movement are the Wyandotte County Historical Society, the Kansas State Historical Society, and Wyandotte County Historical Museum.

1852. "Echoes of the past" don't ring through the decaying old building as they are said to do in other buildings the same age. The orators made their points, not with thundering fistpounding, but with nimble-fingered symbols. It has been 77 years since the last sermon was preached from the platform. The building was abandoned when the domestic science department moved into a new vocational building on the east side of the school grounds.

Minot, N. D. The "No. 1 House" in North Dakota, the residence of all governors since 1893, will be retired by the Board of Administration which has authority to sell or otherwise dispose of both the old mansion and the site it occupies. Money received from the sale is to be used to purchase a caretaker's house in connection with the new mansion, with any left over going into a general fund. The house was constructed by Asa Fisher who amassed a sizeable fortune in the brewing business. Gov. Eli D. C. Shortridge, North Dakota's third chief executive, became the first governor to occupy the mansion.

Roseburg, Ore. The Lillie Moore House, a 101-year-old dwelling in the heart of Roseburg, appears doomed despite efforts of the Douglas County Historical Society to save it. Miss Moore died in 1940 at 76 years of age, leaving her estate to the federal government. She had copied her father's will in doing this. Members of the Douglas Society say Lillie's intent in leaving the estate to the government was that it be made into a

museum. They point to the thousands of historical notes left by Lillie and her father who realized they were living and saving the history of their town. Until her death, Lillie insisted on preserving everything in the house as her father had built it. Her water was carried from the back porch pump. Her light all came from the old, drop-style gas lamps and heat for the house from small, well-preserved iron stoves. The government collected $175,000 from the estate from the sale of land which was turned into two large asphalt parking lots at the rear of the house. A speech by Senator Wayne Morse (D.-Ore.), opposing giving the last parcel of land upon which the house stood to the city, covered 16 pages in the *Congressional Record*. Senator Richard Neuberger (D.-Ore.) and Representative Charles Porter (D.-Ore.) favored giving it to Roseburg. The land was finally sold to a group of local businessmen who plan additional parking area, and the society was given an opportunity to move the house. After purchasing an eight-acre lot near the Douglas County Fairgrounds, the Society learned that too-narrow bridges on accesses blocked the project. Then it was planned to move the house across the river on a raft. This fell through when the firm volunteering to do the work said the house could be ripped into three units—the roof and two sections of the structure—for a trip on wheels. The next difficulty proved to be the undoing of the whole plan—the house could not be moved with the roof intact because of a $3,000 cost of moving utility wires. To remove the roof would cost $4,000, even with the Carpenters and Joiners Union volunteering labor. By the end of May the group had been unable to raise the money and their deadline to move the house had already been extended several months. According to the Society, some parts of the house can be saved, such as fixtures and panel doors; the recently purchased eight acres will eventually be used for historical purposes.

SOUTHERN RHODESIA

"Sometimes during the course of building or ploughing, you may have turned up skeletal remains, you may have reburied them or even kept the skull in the garage —I once saw a Bushman skull used as a car radiator mascot—please don't do that! It is essential if we are to get a clear picture of the people who inhabited Southern Rhodesia in the past, to obtain as many skulls and other remains as possible, complete with 'grave goods' if they are also found." Thus the Southern Rhodesia Commission for the Preservation of Natural and Historical Monuments and Relics in its booklet, *Our Heritage*, asks its countrymen to assist in preserving their heritage and to report their findings to the Commission.

"In Rhodesia we have been left a wealth of pre-historic and historic material, not only by the African and his predecessors, but by the early Portuguese and other European explorers. All this material if it is to be saved for future Rhodesians of all races has to be looked after and frequently guarded against the ravages of both animals and humans. . . . Since the 1936 law which established the Commission the country has become more heavily populated, therefore many more sites have become known and modern transport has made them more accessible, and unfortunately, more subject to vandalism and ignorant defacement. . . . A people without an interest in history and traditions has neither roots nor pride in its country; both the Africans and the Europeans are comparatively newcomers to Southern Rhodesia and therefore, although they have a history from their forefathers from outside our borders, collectively they have little or no knowledge of the country in which they have settled, except that which has happened since the time of their arrival."

Two copies of the booklet were sent to the National Trust in appreciation of advice and publications which had been given the Southern Rhodesians.

San Francisco waterfront, 1850-60. Arrow indicates Montgomery Block.

"The Monkey Block"

Wreckers moved into Montgomery Block in early May and made a 35-foot incision down its middle to determine the most efficient way to demolish it. The 106-year-old architectural wonder of its day and the only major downtown building to escape the great earthquake and fire of 1906 will make way for a parking garage.

The rugged folk of the shanty seaport of the 1850's scoffed when Henry Wager Halleck, later Lincoln's chief of staff, told his plans. "A $3 million building here! He's a dreamer . . . or a drinker." But in 1853 the first four-story building west of Chicago opened with champagne and fireworks for all. It was referred to as "Halleck's Floating Fortress" because the area surrounding The Block was San Francisco's waterfront and also because brick for the project had to be hauled through several feet of mud via raft. The building had a massive layer of redwood logs for its foundation and around it went two-foot brick walls on a skeleton designed as a huge shock-absorber. Although the owners called it "Washington Block," the people called it affectionately the "Monkey Block" or "Montgomery Block" after Captain John Berrien Montgomery who in 1846 raised nearby the first American flag in California.

Soon old San Francisco revolved around The Block. In it were the offices of the lawyers who settled California's muddled land titles. In the basement newly cast bars of gold from the Sierra foothills entered the Adams Company safe under heavy guard. Adolph Sutro made over two floors of a wing to shelve his law library, most of which was moved to a "safer building" during the 1906 disaster. All that remains of the Sutro Library today was that left in its Montgomery Block shelves. In the '90's, it was the Bohemian center of the West and was the home of artists and writers, including writers Frank and Kathleen Norris, Bret Harte, Sam Clemens, Charles Caldwell Dobie, cartoonist Billy De Beck, and sculptor Ralph Stackpole. James King of

William, firebrand newspaper editor, was shot and killed by an unknown assailant there. Numerous drinking places on each floor became famous for the quality of their punches and wines. "Pisco Punch," a legendary liquid high explosive was served downstairs at the Bank Exchange saloon. Sun-Yat-Sen and Won Sam Arch plotted the overthrow of the Manchu Dynasty and drew up the constitution of the Republic of China in the offices of lawyer Oliver Perry Stidger. He was building manager from 1898 until his retirement last year and The Block is standing today, largely because of his efforts. As the fire raged in the aftermath of the 1906 earthquake, the militia was dynamiting everything in its path. Charges were already against the walls of the Montgomery Block when Stidger stormed into the street. Legend tells of a .44 caliber persuasion. "Not quite," says Stidger. "I talked them out of blowing it up. Told them the building would hold the fire like it did the quake." It rode the quake on its raft foundation and the steel shutters at each window held off the flames and persistent looters.

Earlier this year the California Pioneer Society (a Trust member) placed a large plaque on the building denoting its historical significance. Recently a large black wreath, with a white satin band across it with the dates (1853-1959) in black and "Goodbye," was attached to the building.

—T.B.M.

PROPOSED PRESERVATION

Salisbury, N. C. The Michael Braun House may be preserved as a memorial to the Pennsylvania Germans living in North Carolina before the American Revolution. A bill to appropriate funds for the acquisition of the house, introduced in the state senate, refers to the house as an "illustration of the way of life" of thousands of settlers who in a large measure have determined the character of the present citizens of the state.

Greeley, Colo. A fund drive to complete the restoration of the Meeker Museum raised half of the $3,000 needed during the first week. The $3,000 added to the $5,000 budgeted by the city will pay costs of restoration. The City Building Department is restoring the two-story, adobe house built by Nathan Meeker about 1870. With Horace Greeley, Meeker was a founder of the Union colony which centered around the city of Greeley. Nathan Meeker was later killed in the famous massacre that bears his name. Local service clubs bought the old building in 1929 and deeded it to the city. Since then, it has been used as a museum. The city's $5,000 will pay for razing all but the original adobe and renovating the interior. The additional $3,000 will pay for rebuilding the old kitchen, replacing the ornamental woodwork, repairing stucco and painting. Old photographs, diaries, and journals were used to document the restoration work. Meeker's original furniture will be displayed in the museum.

Waco, Texas. The Daughters of the Republic of Texas are leading a campaign to have the state highway department change the proposed route of an interstate highway to avoid the Kennard house. The 1860 house is one of three destined to be destroyed. One can be moved, but the other two are made of brick and would have to be demolished if the highway is built as proposed. An alternate plan of curving the highway slightly to the east would miss the houses. One house was recently purchased with plans to turn it over to a foundation in order that school children could visit it and gain first-hand knowledge of the early culture of the area. The Daughters of the Republic want "an attraction in Waco like La Villita in San Antonio, where early houses and culture can be preserved and enjoyed."

Portage, Wis. The Columbia County Historical Society has salvaged a century-old toll gate house and plans to restore it. The house was built for the family of the gate-keeper whose duty it was to lower a

gate across the plank road and collect tolls. Toll rates were specified as follows: "Two cents for every vehicle, sled, sleigh, or carriage of any description drawn by two animals. For every vehicle drawn by more than two animals, half a cent a mile for each additional animal. For every horse and rider or for every vehicle drawn by one animal, one cent a mile. For every horse, mule, or neat cattle, and half-score of sheep or swine, half a cent a mile." No tolls were collected from any persons "while actually going or returning from any religious meeting on Sunday, or for any persons liable to do military duty, or while actually going to or returning from a military parade or review at which their attendance by law is required." The road was built in 1851 with an investment of $10,000. Heavy oak two-by-eight inch planks were laid across the roadbed corduroy fashion, with the oozing cracks between overlaid with brush and dirt. In 1921 new blacktop replaced the plank road, which was totally abandoned in 1950.

Hannibal, Mo. An old stone house referred to by Mark Twain as the "Welshman's House" is being rebuilt by the Marion County Historical Society. The house was dismantled stone by stone to make way for a new highway. The Society states, "The old house is a splendid example of a substantial house in a rough frontier town of 125 years ago, when many of the houses were much cruder in construction. A stone house, even of this simple plan, was quite a comfortable one in a village largely made up of log houses. Four strong walls and a roof, two fireplaces and glazed windows seemed very fine in a town which had not been settled long. One wonders if the thick walls were put up by some frontier man who feared Indians or were they chosen because stone was plentiful. . . ."

Denison, Texas. Latest addition to the Texas historic park system is the restored two-story frame dwelling at Lamar and Day streets, the birthplace of President Eisenhower. The 1880 house and its surrounding grounds were purchased by public subscription in 1946, presented to the city, and now have been turned over to the Texas park department. Furniture used in the rented house at the time the President was born was not available, but furnishings of the early 1890's were placed there by the Gold Star Mothers of Denison.

Paducah, Ky. Century-old Angles, the home of Alben W. Barkley the last 19 years of his life, will remain in the Barkley family. An agreement arranged for the purchase of the 10-room house and 44 acres of adjacent land by Barkley's only son, David. The house was built as a gift for his bride by Q. Q. Quigley, who took the lead in the incorporation of Paducah in 1856. It had begun to show its age, however, when the Barkleys bought it in the summer of 1936, remodeled it, and furnished it with period furniture. "It is my desire to keep the house and its furnishings as much like my father kept them as possible, and my sisters and Mrs. Barkley have been more than generous and cooperative," David Barkley said.

Augusta, Ga. A movement is under way to restore Seney-Stovall Chapel, a Gothic-revival structure adjacent to the University of Georgia's Lucy Cobb dormitory. Spared during General W. T. Sherman's march to the sea, Athens survived the Civil War with many examples of Greek revival, late Georgian, and mid-Victorian architecture, many of which have since disappeared. The red brick, octagonally shaped chapel was used from 1885 until the late 1940's as an auditorium, theater, chapel, and meeting hall with a seating capacity of 700. The chapel renovation will cost between $75,000 and $100,000.

Redding, Calif. Convict labor will restore Whiskeytown. The century-old, now-deserted mining town faces inundation next year when part of the Trinity River diversion project is completed. A spokesman of San Quentin prison said that an 80-man crew from the prison will dismantle the buildings and move them to

high ground, in cooperation with the State Department of Beaches and Parks. Whiskeytown grew virtually overnight when gold was discovered near there in 1849.

Kansas City, Mo. The Platte County Historical Society acquired old Flintlock Church in 1954. Now that restoration is almost complete, they propose that the Missouri State Park Board accept the church and maintain it as a nondenominational roadside place of worship.

Harrisburg, Pa. Bridge-lovers from all over Pennsylvania recently formed a Pennsylvania chapter of the National Association for the Preservation of Covered Bridges. It will be called "The Theodore Burr Covered Bridge Society," named for the American bridge builder responsible for many of the covered spans in the state. The group is interested in saving the state's remaining 350 bridges, and one of its first projects will be to compile historical data concerning the original construction of such bridges.

Elba, Minn. The Whitewater Wildlife Refuge management, contrary to its usual policy of wrecking all buildings on the farms it takes over and letting the land return to the wild, will preserve the 100-year-old Andrew Keiffer farmhouse. It was built in the early 1850's and has been kept in fair repair but never extensively remodeled. The house still has the small-paned windows, old strap-hinged doors, square-headed nails, and sawed log timbers of the pioneer days. "We would like to see some historical group take it over," said George Meyer, superintendent of the Whitewater Wildlife Refuge, "and restore it as a show place—an 1850 farmstead."

FOREIGN PRESERVATION

Venetian Little Manhattan

"A city that is only a museum is halfway toward becoming a cemetery." With this slogan Venetian city fathers are considering a plan for a "little Manhattan" as a new business center for the lagoon city. It would permit for the first time the construction of skyscrapers and allow cars on the streets. The new business center would rise at the western end of the present city in a zone now occupied by a slaughterhouse, warehouses, and other buildings of no great value. The zone in question runs approximately north and south from the railroad terminal to the Canal of the Giudecca. A new industrial suburb would rise just north of where vehicular and railroad bridges connect Venice with the mainland. The plan would supersede numerous previous projects, which have been considered too fanciful, too expensive, or too destructive of the artistic character of the ancient city. Even the latest proposal which has been received with much hostility by the Venetians may be extensively modified before it finds acceptance. In particular, the "little Manhattan" will probably be restricted to a small area and the height of the skyscrapers — assuming any can be built, which is far from certain—will be severely limited.

There has been a proliferation of plans for Venice because the once proud queen of the Adriatic is the only Italian city that has been going backward, rather than forward, since the beginning of this century. Port activities have been largely transferred to Porto Marghera, on the mainland. Most industrial activity has shifted to Mestre, also on the mainland but part of the Municipality of Venice since 1926. The making of lace and blown glass is almost the only industrial activity on the islands, and Venice has become little more than a huge museum for the delectation of tourists. A sign of the city's decline is seen in the fact that its population of about 170,000 is no greater today than it was 20 years ago, while the population of Mestre has increased in the same period from little more than 35,000 to nearly 150,000.

The decline is shown also by the shocking state of disrepair into which most buildings have fallen. The municipal authorities say that of the 140,000 rooms in the city, 65,000 are classed as "mediocre," 22,100 as "bad," and 4,350 as "very

bad." Only one apartment in ten has central heating and only one in four has a bathroom. It is calculated that 20,000 people live in rooms that daylight never enters.

The "little Manhattan" plan, in conjunction with a new industrial suburb on the mainland, would develop Venetian industry to the fullest while keeping the management of the industrial and commercial center, as a whole, firmly anchored in the lagoon city.

Saint-Benoit-Sur-Loire

Rev. Benedict LeGrain, O.S.B., was recently in Texas seeking funds for the restoration of the Abbey of Saint-Benoit-Sur-Loire, France, an abbey that flourished in the Middle Ages. In 1790 the abbey, with the exception of the church, was destroyed. In 1944 a small group of monks from another monastery returned to Saint-Benoit-Sur-Loire and began restoration. Resources are now exhausted. Because of its nearness to the historical castles of the Loire and the city of Orleans, it has become an attraction for tourists who visit the Basilica.

English Trust

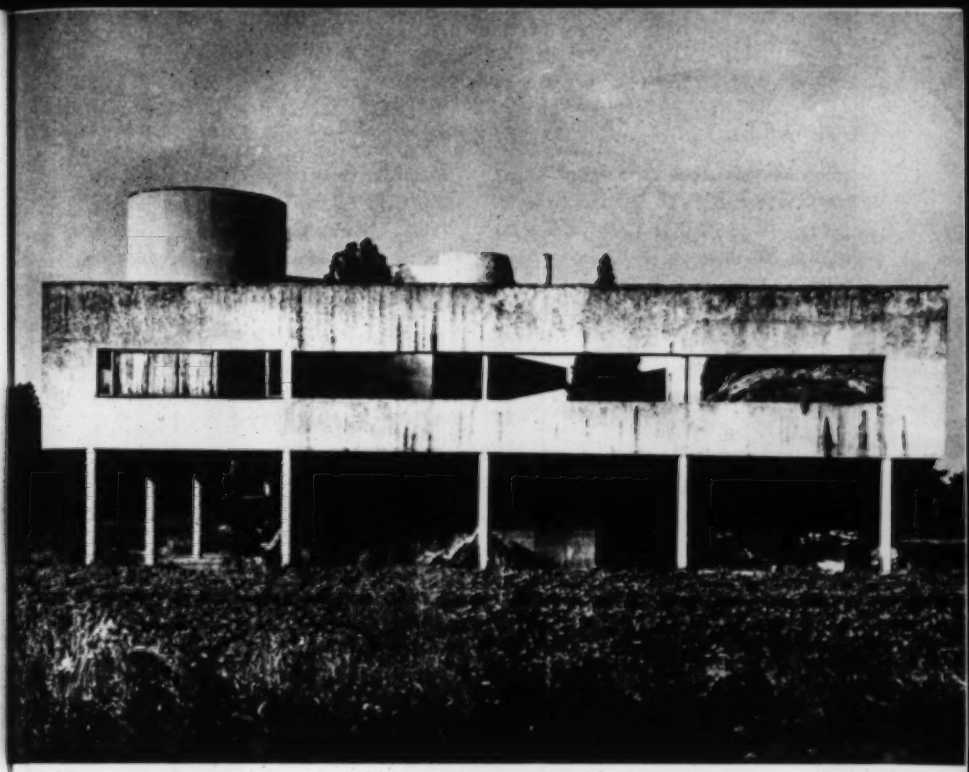
The English National Trust is conducting a drive to reach a membership of 100,000 and states in their report of the Lake District: "At many of our great houses, members are enrolled on the spot. At *Paycockes* in Essex, 16 per cent of all who visit the house are enrolled before they leave. Surely the Lake District is no less inspiring than *Paycockes*. The staff of the Trust is working in many ways to increase membership, but recruitment is really a matter which should be left in the hands of others who believe in the Trust's work. We appeal to members to persuade others to join, to the hotelkeepers whose visitors come, at least in part, to enjoy what the Trust preserves; to the taxi-drivers and boatmen, and to our tenants."

A special feature of the Trust's corporate membership for firms, societies, and hotels is the transferable membership card. A corporation receives five membership cards for £10 per annum; 13 cards for £25 per annum; and 30 membership cards for £50 per annum. These membership cards are freely transferable among the employees of the firm, members of the society, or residents at the hotel which is a corporate member.

Three years ago an affiliate membership in the English National Trust for Places of Historic Interest or Natural Beauty was extended to members of the National Trust for Historic Preservation in the United States. By payment of an extra $1.50 in dues, our members receive free admission to all the properties administered by the English National Trust and the National Trust for Scotland. They do not receive publications nor are they able to vote in the Trusts' councils. Those who wish these additional privileges may enroll for full English Trust membership for 20 shillings ($2.80). Both the affiliate and full memberships in the English National Trust are handled by the National Trust headquarters at 2000 K Street, N.W., Washington, D. C.

Louisbourg

A New Brunswick archaeologist will spend six months uncovering and identifying buildings and streets of the eighteenth-century French fortress of Louisbourg on Cape Breton Island. The buildings and streets located will be excavated and identified for the information of the many visitors who come to see the ruins of this walled city every summer. Louisbourg, an entire city surrounded by massive fortifications and covering 57 acres, was once the marvel of the Atlantic coast. In 1758 it fell to the British and two years later the fortress and its buildings were completely demolished. Building materials were then shipped in ballast to England and to Halifax, N. S. Since 1928 Louisbourg has been a Canadian national historic site and since 1940 a national historic park of the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources. Some



Villa Savoye, Poissy, France

excavation of the ruins has been carried out but very little of the old city has been unearthed and cleared.

Machine for Living

Villa Savoye, designed in the pioneering 1920's by France's Le Corbusier, was the subject of recent protest begun by France's *Cercle d'Etudes Architecturales.* A deluge of cables and letters to André Malraux, minister of state in charge of cultural affairs in the De Gaulle government, followed from British, Brazilian, and U. S. architects, galleries, universities, and the National Trust, in addition to those from other French sympathizers.

The site upon which the uninhabited villa stands was included in 18 acres of farmland appropriated by the city council of Poissy, 17 miles northwest of Paris, for a new high school. The villa is considered a treasure by admirers of Le Corbusier because there are comparatively few of his residences in existence, despite his enormous influence on modern architecture over the past thirty years. Considered by Le Corbusier as his finest "machine for living," it is raised on stilts and has gently inclined ramps leading from the ground to the sun deck. Interior space is arranged so that sunlight floods the open areas behind its cubist exterior, and once prompted the owners to call it *Les Heures Claires.* The aging, widowed Madame Pierre Savoye decided not to spend the $80,000 estimated to rehabilitate the house after it was looted by the Germans during World War II. Unlivable in its dilapidated condition, it was turned into a hay barn.

Malraux's ministry announced that the villa, ranked by many architectural historians as the modern house second in importance to Frank Lloyd Wright's Robie House, would almost certainly be spared. An easy solution, declaring the house a

protected "historical monument," would not work, for under French law no building may be so classified while its designer is alive. The Ministry of Education, however, has been urged to find another site.

Danish-Virgin Island Expedition

Former Danish West Indian Island, where there are still a number of architectural memorials from the Danish regime, will be the objective of an expedition of the Danish Museum of Art. Since the structures are dwindling fast, the Museum plans to measure and make examinations to preserve this particular epoch of Danish cultural life. From 1820-40 the capital, Charlotte Amalie, was the third largest city of Denmark, after Copenhagen and Flensborg. A team of four or five men will go to the Virgin Islands to prepare the larger plan and to formulate plans for the measuring. Following this preliminary investigation, 30 young architects will go to the islands. With such a team it is thought that the entire program can be completed in approximately two years. In addition to building arts, the survey would span the various phases of the Academy of Arts, including decorative art (there is still much of the old Danish furniture to be found on the islands), landscape and town planning.

Assistance is being sought from Danish sources and from Laurance S. Rockefeller who bought the major part of St. John and donated the land to the National Park Service. The U. S. government has given support to the plans, and the Governor of the Islands has promised the members of the expedition free room, board, and transportation on the islands.

MEMBERSHIP

There have been 10 new member organizations since April 15, 1959:

Antique Collectors Club of Atlantic City; Centennial Chapter, Daughters of American Pioneers (W. Va.); Conservation Club, Lyons Township High School (Ill.); Fort Hunter Canal Society (N. Y.); Mansion Museum, Oglebay Institute (W. Va.); Montgomery County Branch, Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities; Old Westbury Gardens, Inc. (N. Y.); Rhode Island Society of the Order of Founders and Patriots; The New Hope Historical Society (Pa.); and The Questers National Organization.

Morgan Jones, Inc. (N. Y.), has become a new corporate member.

Publications

Cleveland Park — An Early Residential Neighborhood of the Nation's Capital. Grace Dunlop Peter and Joyce D. Southwick. Washington, D. C.: Cleveland Park Community Library Committee. 1959. $2.00.

This booklet, in limited edition, deals with the area north of Georgetown, west of Rock Creek, and along the Rockville Road (Wisconsin Avenue), to Tenleytown. It dates from 1800 when the boundaries of the District of Columbia were defined and Georgetowners bought farms on the heights of Washington. Later their farms became country estates; at the turn of the twentieth century these estates gave way to city lots, tree-lined streets, and ample houses. *Woodley*, *The Highlands*, *Rosedale*, and *Friendship* are structures which are included in the book.

Master Bridge Builders—The Story of the Roeblings. Kathryn E. Harrod. New York: Julian Messner, Inc. 1958. 192 pp. and index. $2.95.

One of a series of biographies for the high school student, this book will prove rewarding to anyone who has not discovered the Roebling engineers—John, the father, and Washington, his son. One conceived the plan and the other saw to completion the "eighth wonder of the world," as the Brooklyn Bridge was called when it opened in 1883. Their story is an exciting chapter in scientific history and an incomparable adventure.

Miss Harrod, who also wrote *James Harrod of Kentucky,* first heard of John A. Roebling when, living in Germany, she visited the ancient town of Bamberg. Roebling's own travels as a student to view a small chain suspension bridge there inspired him to devote the rest of his life to this branch of engineering. Later she lived in Brooklyn Heights where she began to gather material for the biography. "It is impossible to live near this beautiful bridge, to walk on the esplanade above the East River, without experiencing the thrill which comes from looking at the massive towers, the magic tracery of the cables and stays in this vital link between the two largest boroughs of New York City," she says.

Regrettably, however, the exciting high view of Manhattan from the pedestrian walk is cluttered with structural additions and utility lines, and the bold simplicity of the original idea is marred. This happened in 1950 when streetcar tracks were removed from the bridge and additional automobile lanes were substituted.

—T. B. M.

Grandeur on the Appoquinimink—The House of William Corbit at Odessa, Delaware. John A. H. Sweeney. University of Delaware Press. 1959. 146 pp., index, and illus. $6.00.

The first volume in the Winterthur Series, which is the result of research by the fellows at Winterthur, is written by John A. H. Sweeney, Associate Curator of Winterthur. Following the principles of approach to the arts of the Winterthur course of study, Mr. Sweeney has taken the sociological point of view to this outstanding eighteenth-century structure through a detailed analysis of not only the house, but the place, the man and his records, and the records of his milieu. Thus the book is not an architectural study, but rather a sociological study in which the product of one man and his time, i.e., the building, is used as a tool to explore and explain an area in colonial America. The chapter on architecture really takes no ascendency in importance over the other chapters in the volume but acts as a corollary to them.

Mr. Sweeney looks at the building, the man, and his time with an eye of blinding clarity through minute and exhaustive examination of all-known sources, documentary, and otherwise, making a scholarly comparison, among other things, between the paneling of the Corbit House and that of the Powel House in Philadelphia. Appendices containing house and building accounts, as well as inventories and facsimiles of documents and photographs of furnishings, further help to bring the house and owner to life.

A tantalizing sidelight is the speculation of the background and training of Robert May. As master builder of the structure, like so many of the carpenters-extraordinary who created the pinnacles of America's eighteenth-century heritage in building, he is shrouded in the mists of history.

—W. J. M.

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